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### **United Energy Distributors Receives \$150,000 from U. S. Department of Energy**

(Columbia) – U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham has announced that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will award \$150,000 to the South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO) for construction of a state-of-the-art biofuels storage and distribution at United Energy Distributors in Aiken. The South Carolina Energy Office is a unit of the State Budget and Control Board.

Construction of this project will begin with the upgrade of an old kaolin storage facility at the United Energy Distributors refueling facility in Aiken. Once completed, this site will hold up to 260,000 gallons of ethanol and biodiesel. Biodiesel is a cleaner burning diesel replacement fuel made from natural, renewable sources such as new and used vegetable oils and animal fats. United Energy Distributors estimates that the ability to purchase and store these fuels in bulk will allow them to pass on a savings of 12 to 15 cents per gallon to fuel distributors and direct customers throughout the Southeast. Petroleum displacement resulting from this project will be approximately one million gallons per year in several Southeastern states.

“The alternative energy efforts of United Energy are helping South Carolina reduce its dependence on foreign oil, improve our environment, and develop our local economy,” said John Clark, Director of the South Carolina Energy Office.

In total, South Carolina received more than \$440,500 for six energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. For this project, United Energy Distributors will contribute a cost share of \$103,457 for a total project cost of \$253,457.

For more details on these projects, visit the South Carolina Energy Office’s website at [www.energy.sc.gov](http://www.energy.sc.gov). Click on the “News and Notables” link.

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